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PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 75th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 17 December 1991, at 10 a.m.

President:	Mr. SHIHABI	(Saudi Arabia)
later:	Mr. ROGERS (Vice-President)	(Belize)

- Expression of sympathy on the sinking of a ferry in the Red Sea

- The situation in Central America: threats to international peace and security and peace initiatives: [31] (continued)

  (a) Reports of the Secretary-General

  (b) Draft resolution

  (c) Report of the Fifth Committee

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- Human rights questions: [98] (continued)

  (a) Report of the Third Committee

  (b) Amendment

  (c) Reports of the Fifth Committee

- Report of the Economic and Social Council: report of the Third Committee [12] (continued)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY ON THE SINKING OF A FERRY IN THE RED SEA

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): May I, on behalf of all the Members of the General Assembly, extend our deepest sympathy to the Government and the people of Egypt on the tragic loss of life caused by the sinking of a ferry in the Red Sea two days ago.

I now call on the representative of Egypt.

Mr. GALAL (Egypt) (interpretation from Arabic): On behalf of my delegation and the Government and people of the Arab Republic of Egypt, I should like to extend our sincere thanks to all the members of the General Assembly for the kind words of sympathy expressed to us on the sinking of a ferry in the Red Sea, which claimed the lives of many Egyptian citizens and some citizens of other countries.

AGENDA ITEM 31 (continued)

THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA: THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY AND PEACE INITIATIVES:

(a) REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/46/658 and Corr.1, A/46/713)

(b) DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/46/L.30/Rev.2)

(c) REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/46/772)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): May I remind representatives that the debate on agenda item 31 was concluded at the 64th plenary meeting, on 5 December. At that meeting draft resolution A/46/L.30 and Corr.1 was introduced. Members will also recall that action on the draft resolution was postponed in order to give the Fifth Committee time to review the programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

(The President)

The Assembly now has before it draft resolution A/46/L.30/Rev.2. The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution is contained in document A/46/772.

We shall now take a decision on draft resolution A/46/L.30/Rev.2.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/46/L.30/Rev.2?

Draft resolution A/46/L.30/Rev.2 was adopted (resolution 46/109).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): We have concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 31.

AGENDA ITEMS 98 and 12 (continued)

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS:

(a) REPORT OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE (PARTS I and II) (A/46/721 and Add.1)

(b) AMENDMENT (A/46/L.52)

(c) REPORTS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/46/778, A/46/784)

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL: REPORT OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE (A/46/717 and Add.1)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I call on the Rapporteur of the Third Committee, Ms. Rosemary Semafumu of Uganda, to present the reports of the Third Committee.

Ms. SEMAFUMU (Uganda), Rapporteur of the Third Committee: I have the honour to introduce the following reports of the Third Committee on the items allocated to it by the General Assembly for consideration: under item 98, entitled "Human rights questions", the Third Committee recommends, in document A/46/721, the adoption of 27 draft resolutions, which are given in paragraph 102 of the report, and the adoption of two draft decisions, which are given in paragraph 103 of the report.

In connection with draft resolution XIV, I should like to draw the attention of the Assembly to the fact that, where it is stated in the report that the Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote (A/46/721, para. 58), a footnote should be inserted after the words "without a vote", reading:

> "Following the adoption of the draft resolution, as orally revised, the representative of the United States of America stated that he had not participated in the vote on the draft resolution."

Under the same item, the Third Committee recommends, in document A/46/721/Add.1, the adoption of two draft resolutions set forth in paragraph 28 of the report, and the adoption of a draft decision set forth in paragraph 29 of the report.

Under item 12, entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council", the Third Committee recommends, in document A/46/717, the adoption of a draft resolution set forth in paragraph 12 of the report and of two draft decisions set forth in paragraph 13 of the report. Under the same item, the Third Committee recommends, in document A/46/717/Add.1, the adoption of a draft resolution set forth in paragraph 7 of the report.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I should like to inform members that the representative of Iraq has expressed a desire to make a statement in connection with the report (A/46/721 and Add.1) of the Third Committee on agenda item 98.

Bearing in mind rule 66 of the rules of procedure, may I take it that the General Assembly agrees to discuss that report?

It was so decided.

Mr. AL-ANBARI (Iraq): With regard to document A/46/721, the representative of Iraq in the Third Committee expressed our views concerning the text of the draft resolution under consideration. The sole point that I want to make now is that the noble cause of human rights is being used, not to promote or improve human rights in Iraq, but is rather being abused to deprive the Iraqi people of the most basic human rights, notably the right to life, without which there could be no humans to speak about their rights.

I have no doubt that some of the sponsors of this draft resolution are genuinely interested in promoting the cause of human rights in Iraq as elsewhere. Nevertheless, the draft resolution is going to serve the well-orchestrated campaign to prolong, indeed to tighten and perpetuate, economic and financial sanctions against the Iraqi people. What sense does the draft resolution make when, as recently as October 1991, the international study team, composed of around 70 specialists from this country and many other European countries, reported that

> "unless Iraq quickly obtains food, medicine and other supplies, millions of Iraqis will continue to experience malnutrition and disease. Children by the tens of thousands will remain in jeopardy; thousands will die."

(Mr. Al-Anbari, Iraq)

The sanctions have been maintained, indeed tightened, despite the fulfilment of all the conditions specified in paragraph 22 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991) for the termination of the sanctions. By illegally maintaining the economic sanctions against Iraq, some countries members of the Security Council have managed to make resolution 687 (1991) nothing less than a death sentence against every Iraqi man and woman who needs dialysis but cannot get it, against every Iraqi man and woman who is diabetic but cannot get insulin, and against every Iraqi man and woman who needs chemotherapy but cannot get it, owing to the sanctions. Indeed, many categories of Iraqi patients face imminent death as the only reality awaiting them day in and day out, owing to the sanctions. As a matter of fact, perhaps for the first time in modern history, babies are being killed while they are still in the wombs of their mothers when they need Caesarean operations. So, instead of being born alive, they go together with their mother to the graveyards.

In addition to those facing imminent death in Iraq, it has been estimated by the same international study team that the mortality rate of children under five years of age is now 380 per cent greater than before the onset of the Gulf crisis. This estimate was made after a thorough countrywide survey of 9,034 households. The study teams, like previous international and humanitarian teams, concluded that the rise in mortality among infants and children under five years of age is likely due to a complex interaction of factors, including the acute shortage of food and essential medicine throughout Iraq. Lack of clean drinking water and sanitation systems has greatly increased such water-borne diseases as cholera, typhoid, dysentery and gastroenteritis.

(Mr. Al-Anbari, Iraq)

The figures and observations just referred to make any talk about the condition of human rights in Iraq, while supporting or refusing to lift the sanctions against Iraq, nothing less than self-contradiction, if not something worse, which I refrain from describing.

(Mr. Al-Anbari, Iraq)

Nothing can restore to the Iraqi people their right to life, a life free from disease and hunger, unless it be the lifting of all the inhuman sanctions so that the infrastructure of the Iraqi economy can be totally reconstructed, Iraqi society restored and the environmental deterioration ameliorated. Hence, those who truly care for the human rights of the Iraqi people should urgently demand total abolition of the inhuman, illegal and brutal sanctions and the lifting of the land, air and sea siege.

I have enough faith in human civility and decency to believe that no country on Earth would like to see genocide being committed against the Iraqi people, but genocide is inevitable so long as sanctions are continued; a slow but systematic process of genocide in Iraq will then certainly ensue. I hope that this note will explain to the sponsors of this draft resolution the true reality they have to face and that their consciences will remind them that they should really protect first and foremost the Iraqi people's right to life.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Statements will now be limited to explanations of votes. The positions of delegations regarding the various recommendations of the Third Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the Assembly agreed that:

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting unless that delegation's vote is different from its vote in the Committee."

(The President)

May I remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Third Committee, I should like to advise representatives that, unless delegations have already notified the Secretariat to the contrary, we are going to proceed with the voting in the same manner as was done in the Third Committee. This means that where recorded votes were taken, we shall do the same. I should also hope that we may proceed to adopt without a vote those recommendations that were adopted without a vote in the Third Committee.

The Assembly will now consider parts I and II of the report (A/46/721 and Add.1) of the Third Committee on agenda item 98, entitled "Human rights questions".

Mr. VAN DER HEIJDEN (Netherlands): I should like to make a very slight amendment to draft decision I contained in document A/46/721, entitled "Status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment". (A/46/721, para. 103)

In the penultimate line, the words "forty-seventh session" should replace the words "forty-eighth session". The whole phrase should therefore read:

"... requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the status of the Convention".

This slight amendment brings the draft decision into line with the report of the Working Group on rationalization of the work of the Third Committee and its programme of work.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): We have taken note of the amendment proposed by the representative of the Netherlands.

(The President)

The Assembly has before it 27 draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 102 of part I of its report (A/46/721), two draft decisions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 103 of the same document, as well as two draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 28 of part II of the report (A/46/721/Add.1) and a draft decision recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 29 of the same part.

In connection with draft resolution XX contained in paragraph 102 of part I of the report, the Assembly also has before it an amendment submitted by Cuba (A/46/L.52).

I shall put the recommendations of the Third Committee contained in parts I and II of its report (A/46/721 and Add.1) to the General Assembly one by one.

After all the decisions have been taken, representatives will again have an opportunity to explain their vote.

I shall now call on those delegations that wish to explain their votes or positions before the voting.

Mr. LONGCHAMP (Haiti) (interpretation from French): I have the honour of explaining my delegation's vote on draft resolution I in document A/46/721/Add.1, entitled "Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections".

On 16 December 1990, after 29 years of hereditary dictatorship and five years of political upheaval, the Republic of Haiti thought it had reached the turning-point which would have made it the most concrete example of this draft resolution. The work carried out with the international community, and, in particular, the Observer Group for the Verification of the Elections in Haiti (ONUVEH), could have served as a basis in the global programme of the new world order under the auspices of the United Nations.

(Mr. Longchamp, Haiti)

Haiti - a small country, poor among the poor, emerging from a backward-looking dictatorship, controlled by a small group that own all of the resources to the detriment of a population that lives in abject poverty, overwhelmed by internal conflicts of all kinds - had just elected by a majority of 70 per cent a President whose urgent mandate was to organize a democratic society based upon political participation, social and economic justice and respect for fundamental freedoms. This was the first manifestation of the political will of the Haitian people to determine their own future after 200 years of independence.

Just one year ago, on 16 December 1990, the United Nations announced to the world the remarkable success of the Haitian electoral process. The people's satisfaction was justified by the hope that was born of the success of that endeavour.

On 25 September 1991, to the applause of the General Assembly, President Jean-Bertrand Aristide came here to thank the international community for what it had done to help the Haitian people win this challenge. Unfortunately, the minority that had always taken advantage of an iniquitous system did not hesitate to resort to the force of arms in order to undo what had been done through the unprecedented cooperation between the Haitian people and the international community. On 29 September 1991, a bloody military coup d'état forced President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to leave Haiti for the brother country of Venezuela.

Since then, thousands of my compatriots have been killed by the deadly bullets of a repression that has created unprecedented despair among Haitian families. We cannot even count the number of people who have been displaced, who have fled their homes, as a result of this institutionalized repression orchestrated by those who carried out the military coup. Thousands of

(Mr. Longchamp, Haiti)

refugees, fleeing the hell that had been created by the soldiers and their civilian allies, braved the vicissitudes of the Caribbean and the Atlantic in search of what they hoped would be more merciful skies. More than 10 thousand Haitian refugees who survived are now troubling the sleep of authorities in various parts of the Americas.

According to the report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, since the coup d'état, more than 1,500 people have been killed, and just yesterday, 16 December 1991, the Haitian army was still ruthlessly sowing terror throughout the country. One deputy was killed in his home in the northern part of the country by section chiefs. The house of another deputy was destroyed as were about 60 other houses in the same vicinity.

All of the parliamentarians who signed the letter calling on President Aristide to choose a Prime Minister as soon as possible in order to thwart military coercion have had to go into hiding because of the panic and the terror that has been orchestrated by those who carried out the coup. The independent press has had to cease publication. The State media are now in the pay of those who carried out the coup and they are disseminating a list of names and addresses of people and people's organizations that the army is going to hunt down, and they are also calling for the return of the Tontons-Macoutes movement.

As a background to this institutionalized terror, we have the dead, the wounded and massive illegal arrests.

Two months after the coup d'état, in an attempt to thwart the manoeuvres of the military and its civilian allies, President Aristide, concerned over the subhuman conditions in which the Haitian people find themselves, is trying to negotiate, under the auspices of the Organization of American States, with

(Mr. Longchamp, Haiti)

a Parliament that carries on its deliberations under the boots of the military and with other greater or lesser opportunists.

In order to keep faith with the democratic ideal assigned by the people of Haiti to my Government, we must, before we participate in this vote, state clearly our position on the organization of the elections and of the concept of democracy and agenda item 98 (b).

In the collective understanding of the Haitian people, the holding of the elections was a challenge to take up and an irrational fear to overcome. On 28 November 1987, under the military junta, full of enthusiasm, voting card in hand, hundreds of voters were beaten in front of a voting booth in Port-au-Prince. After these intentionally rigged elections, successive governments emerged by coup d'état or by phony elections made to measure by the military.

The United Nations Observer Group for the Verification of the Elections in Haiti (ONUVEH) satisfied the civilian population in three ways: security, the support of the international community and above all the possibility that we would attain our objective, namely, to rebuild Haiti on the basis of a democratic ideal. The elections were only the instrument chosen for striving for that ideal. As the Secretary-General emphasized in the final comments of his report on this issue,

> "Elections in and of themselves do not constitute democracy. They are not an end but a step, albeit an important and often essential one, on the path towards the democratization of societies and the realization of the right to take part in the governance of one's country as enunciated in major international human rights instruments. It would be unfortunate to confuse the end with the means and to forget that democracy implies far more than the mere act of periodically casting a vote, but covers the

(Mr. Longchamp, Haiti)

entire process of participation by citizens in the political life of their country." (A/46/609, para. 76)

The draft resolution we are considering today in order to decide on its viablility in the United Nations programme errs on the side of formalism, as if voting were the solution to all problems. In this draft resolution there is no mention of any proposal that would formally support the government resulting from these elections assisted by the United Nations.

Our experience must serve as an example. The Organization spent millions of dollars to make ONUVEH possible. If Cedras and his acolytes, by dint of their arms, succeed in their deadly undertaking, what will have been the point of the elections? What will be the point of institutionalizing this draft resolution in the activities of the United Nations?

My Government wishes to appeal once again to the Assembly to use all its powers to ensure respect for the law in Haiti. The international community has helped the Haitian electoral process and it therefore has a moral duty to the Haitian people who day after day are being felled by the army's bullets. In order to make this draft resolution credible, the United Nations must strive to help the Haitian people restore constitutional order to Haiti so that our island can reemerge as a democracy.

Ms. BOTERO (Colombia) (interpretation from Spanish): My delegation wishes to state its views on draft resolution I, "Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections", contained in document A/46/721/Add.1.

The Government of Colombia reaffirms its strict respect for international law and the Charter of the United Nations, Article 2 in particular, as well as for the norms of human rights that govern principles of the participation of peoples and individuals in their governments and political systems.

(Ms. Botero, Colombia)

My delegation would like to emphasize the importance of strengthening the principle of genuine and free elections as a fundamental principle in order to ensure that human rights are observed and respected. In this connection we in our own democratic system implement what is stipulated in article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that "Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives". Similarly, we emphasize what is stipulated in article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that "All peoples have the right to self-determination" and that "By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status". Similarly, we would like to reiterate the universal recognition of sovereign equality of all States and the right of each and every one of them to choose and freely develop its own political, economic, cultural and social system.

Colombia, for its part, is pleased to have one of the oldest democracies in the world; it has enabled us to hold periodic and free elections in the course of more than 100 years in which various ideological national trends have been represented. Since March of last year we have held four national elections. To problems in our democracy we have responded with more democracy.

Sovereignty, self-determination and the independence of States and peoples are the cornerstones of the United Nations Charter. In that context, electoral processes are matters that fall fully within the purview of the domestic jurisdiction of States and are the expression of their sovereignty.

United Nations participation in some electoral processes has been exceptional in nature and does not flow from any right or established custom but, rather, is the result of exceptional circumstances: cases of decolonization, the result of peace-making processes, or when the Government of a Member State has explicitly requested it.

(Ms. Botero, Colombia)

Hence, Colombia agrees that the Organization can provide various forms of electoral assistance, in exceptional cases and on an ad hoc basis. But we do not consider that it is necessary for the Secretary-General to appoint a high official to serve as the focal point in coordinating requests for electoral verification or assistance, when such activities are, in principle, of an exceptional nature and fall under the domestic jurisdiction of States, in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 7, of the United Nations Charter.

In any event, we wish to reiterate that the explicit request of the Government of a Member State is indispensable before any electoral assistance can be provided.

In conclusion, we would like to reaffirm that electoral processes must be understood within the framework of the principles of international law and seen in the light of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. For those reasons, my delegation will be unable to vote in favour of this draft resolution.

Mr. ADALA (Kenya): My delegation voted against draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.61/Rev.1 in the Third Committee. We did so not because Kenya does not believe in or uphold the principle of periodic and genuine elections. Indeed, the Constitution of Kenya provides for elections every five years. Kenyans have, accordingly, gone to the polls regularly for the past 28 years without interruption to elect their representatives.

We are not opposed in principle either to the institutionalization of a practice that has been implemented by the Organization over the past several decades, namely, popular consultations or elections, even though we are aware of the fact that some in the Assembly at best lent qualified support but otherwise voted against the conduct of such popular consultations or elections

(Mr. Adala, Kenya)

in the colonial Territories, in total disregard of the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, as laid down in Article 1, paragraph 2, of the United Nations Charter.

My delegation's concern is, rather, with the manner in which the Assembly is being rushed, without any apparently good reason, into adopting a resolution before an exhaustive exchange of views on such an important issue, and on which only a handful or small percentage of Member States have submitted positions in response to the Secretary-General's request.

We do not advocate an indefinite delay, nor presume that the Secretary-General will receive a 100-per-cent response before he acts. We feel that our apprehensions are justified by the fact that only a handful of Member States have responded, some of whom expressed opposing views, and also by the doubts expressed in the Secretary-General's report on concepts used in the document, or precision of expressions such as "electoral assistance", "supervision", "observation", "verification", "monitoring", and so on.

It has been observed by some delegations that there is no single model of democracy. Genuine democracy, according to us, evolves from the cultural heritage, traditions and accepted practices of the people.

This Organization stands as a unique forum for all Member States, large and small, to consult and exchange ideas and views in order not only to harmonize the different systems and concepts but also to gain a deeper understanding of why we may differ from one another, without necessarily being wrong.

Because of those reasons, my delegation will again vote against the draft resolution in document A/C.3/46/L.61/Rev.1 - now before the Assembly as draft resolution I in document A/46/721/Add.1. We sincerely hope, however, that the

(Mr. Adala, Kenya)

democratization process we seek to establish will be reflected to a greater degree of transparency in our Organization and that my delegation will, at some future date, find it possible to associate itself unreservedly with the sentiments expressed in a similar draft resolution.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The Assembly will now turn to part I of the report (A/46/721). The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme-budget implications of draft resolutions II, III, VII and XIX, and draft decision II is contained in document A/46/778.

The Assembly will first take a decision on the 27 draft resolutions contained in paragraph 102 of part I of the report.

Draft resolution I is entitled "United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture". The Third Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 46/110).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution II is entitled "Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 46/111).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution III is entitled "Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child".

Draft resolution III was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly also wishes to do so?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 46/112).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution IV is entitled "International convenants on human rights".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution IV without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 46/113).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution V is entitled "International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families".

Draft resolution V was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly also wishes to do so?

Draft resolution V was adopted (resolution 46/114).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution VI is entitled "Non-discrimination and protection of minorities".

(The President)

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution VI without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution VI was adopted (resolution 46/115).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution VII is entitled "World Conference on Human Rights".

Draft resolution VII was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution VII was adopted (resolution 46/116).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution VIII is entitled "Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syria, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Israel, United States of America

Abstaining: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Draft resolution VIII was adopted by 123 votes to 2, with 34 abstentions (resolution 46/117).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution IX is entitled "Strengthening of the Centre for Human Rights".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution IX without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution IX was adopted (resolution 46/118).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution X is entitled "The protection of persons with mental illness and the improvement of mental health care".

Draft resolution X was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly also wishes to do so?

Draft resolution X was adopted (resolution 46/119).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution XI is entitled "Human rights in the administration of justice".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution XI without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution XI was adopted (resolution 46/120).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution XII is entitled "Human rights and extreme poverty".

(The President)

Draft resolution XII was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution XII was adopted (resolution 46/121).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution XIII is entitled "United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution XIII without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution XIII was adopted (resolution 46/122).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution XIV is entitled "Right to development".

Draft resolution XIV was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly also wishes to do so?

Draft resolution XIV was adopted (resolution 46/123).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution XV is entitled "National institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution XV without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution XV was adopted (resolution 46/124).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution XVI is entitled "Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances".

Draft resolution XVI was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution XVI was adopted (resolution 46/125).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution XVII is entitled "Human rights and scientific and technological progress".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution XVII without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution XVII was adopted (resolution 46/126).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution XVIII is entitled "Human rights and mass exoduses".

Draft resolution XVIII was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly also wishes to do so?

Draft resolution XVIII was adopted (resolution 46/127).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution XIX is entitled "International Year for the World's Indigenous People".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution XIX without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution XIX was adopted (resolution 46/128).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution XX is entitled "Strengthening of United Nations action in the human rights field through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity".

The Assembly has before it also an amendment contained in document A/46/L.52, which, if adopted, would delete the last operative paragraph of the draft resolution - that is, operative paragraph 12.

In accordance with rule 90 of the rules of procedure, the Assembly will first take a decision on this amendment.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the amendment contained in document A/46/L.52?

The amendment was adopted.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): We shall now take a decision on draft resolution XX, as amended.

Draft resolution XX was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution XX, as amended, was adopted (resolution 46/129).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution XXI is entitled "Respect for the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in their electoral processes". A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Chile, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Dominica, Ethiopia, Fiji, Honduras, Jamaica, Lebanon, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Samoa

Draft resolution XXI was adopted by 102 votes to 40, with 13 abstentions (resolution 46/130).*

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution XXII is entitled "Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution XXII without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution XXII was adopted (resolution 46/131).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution XXIII is entitled "Situation in Myanmar".

Draft resolution XXIII was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution XXIII was adopted (resolution 46/132).

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* Subsequently, the delegations of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic advised the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution XXIV is entitled "Situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in El Salvador". The Third Committee adopted draft resolution XXIV without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution XXIV was adopted (resolution 46/133).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution XXV is entitled "Situation of human rights in Iraq".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zambia

Against: Iraq

Abstaining: Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malaysia, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe

Draft resolution XXV was adopted by 129 votes to 1, with 17 abstentions (resolution 46/134).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution XXVI is entitled "Situation of human rights in Kuwait under Iraqi occupation".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Iraq

Draft resolution XXVI was adopted by 155 votes to 1 (resolution 46/135).*

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* Subsequently, the delegation of Liechtenstein advised the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution XXVII is entitled "Situation of human rights in Afghanistan". The Third Committee adopted draft resolution XVII without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution XXVII was adopted (resolution 46/136).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The Assembly will now take a decision on the two draft decisions contained in paragraph 103 of part I of the report in document A/46/721.

Draft decision I is entitled "Status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment". The Third Committee adopted draft decision I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt it, as orally amended by the Netherlands?

Draft decision I, as orally amended, was adopted.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft decision II is entitled "Consideration of the request for revision of article 8, paragraph 6, of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination". Draft decision II was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft decision II was adopted.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The Assembly will now turn to part II of the report (A/46/721/Add.1 of the Third Committee and first take a decision on the two draft resolutions contained in paragraph 28.

Draft resolution I is entitled "Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections". The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme-budget implications of the draft resolution are contained in document A/46/784.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia

Against: Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Kenya, Namibia

Abstaining: Angola, China, Colombia, Indonesia, Iraq, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mexico, Philippines, Sudan, Uganda, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe

Draft resolution I was adopted by 134 votes to 4, with 13 abstentions (resolution 46/137).*

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution II is entitled "Human rights in Haiti". The Third Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 46/138).

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* Subsequently, the delegations of Kenya and Namibia advised the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision contained in paragraph 29 of part II of the report of the Third Committee. The Third Committee recommends the adoption of the draft decision entitled "Reports considered under the item entitled 'Human rights questions'".

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

I shall now call on those representatives who wish to make statements in explanation of vote.

Mr. TROTTIER (Canada): My delegation joined in the consensus adoption of draft resolution X, entitled "The protection of persons with mental illness and the improvement of mental health care". However, we do have a concern about Principle 20 of the annex to that resolution.

Principle 20.4 of this resolution provides that the treatment of criminal offenders determined to have a mental illness shall in all circumstances be consistent with provisions regarding consent to treatment in Principle 11. While Canada is generally in compliance with Principle 20, recent amendments to our criminal code permit a court to order treatment of an accused who has been found unfit to stand trial.

The rationale for this provision is twofold. It prevents detention without trial and promotes trial within a reasonable time while the evidence for a defence is still available. Court-ordered treatment is subject to very strict restrictions, and an accused may appeal a court's compulsory treatment order. The amendments to the Canadian criminal code take great care to protect and balance the conflicting interests of the accused - not to be subject to treatment without consent, on the one hand, and not to be detained unnecessarily on the other.

Mr. DANERI (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): My delegation wishes to explain its vote on draft resolution XXI on "Respect for the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in their electoral processes".

(Mr. Daneri, Argentina)

Argentina voted against that draft resolution because it emphasizes the confrontational aspects of electoral assistance from the United Nations, instead of giving the proper weight to the very institution of electoral assistance. In so far as the mechanism is established at the request of the country seeking assistance, it is not necessary to reaffirm the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States, which are in any event protected by the Charter of our Organization.

Ms. OJAMAA (United States of America): For the reasons we stated in the Third Committee, the United States did not participate in the General Assembly's action on draft resolutions II, VII and XIV in document A/46/721, under agenda item 98.

Mr. HURST (Antigua and Barbuda): At the opening of the past three sessions of the General Assembly, Antigua and Barbuda brought before this body the plight of the world's indigenous peoples. Today my delegation is pleased to join in lending its support to draft resolution XIX in document A/46/721, declaring 1993 the International Year for the World's Indigenous People.

It may be recalled that last year my delegation abstained when a similar draft resolution was introduced, citing two reasons for our action. First, we were of the view that the draft resolution was devoid of resolve and thus failed to project a point of view. A resolution on indigenous peoples which failed to make reference to the 500-year history of the collision between explorers and indigenous peoples, and which did not explicitly address the concerns and perils faced by the powerless indigenous peoples today, required more work.

Secondly, my delegation desired to have 1992 designated as the year in which the United Nations would pay a special tribute to the world's indigenous peoples. Mindful that our sentiments might have caused others to think that

(Mr. Hurst, Antigua and Barbuda)

our attention was focused exclusively on the indigenous peoples of the Americas and the Caribbean, we carefully pointed out that the 500-year anniversary of the visit of a European explorer to my country's region was but a spark to ignite our burning concerns for human rights worldwide.

I take this opportunity once more to repeat that my countrymen do not accept the view that Christopher Columbus discovered the new world. Undoubtedly it was his accidental encounter with the Caribbean and the Americas which set off the trip-wire of today's history, to the benefit of some and to the evident detriment of the indigenous peoples that greeted him. Though the resolution fails to address this matter explicitly, my delegation is of the view that there has been a sufficient reformulation of its terms to cause it to win our approval today.

I also take this opportunity to applaud the Governments of Brazil, Venezuela and Canada for the bold and just decisions which each has recently taken to secure a better future for several indigenous peoples within its borders. The Yanomami people in Brazil and Venezuela now enjoy protections previously denied these Amazonian forest dwellers, and the Inuit, or Eskimo, people of Canada's Northwest Territories will exercise increasing controls over their vast ancestral homelands.

A great deal more remains to be done, and Antigua and Barbuda will be for ever diligent in pursuing protections for the world's indigenous peoples. We would think that in providing a platform for the down-trodden and the weak, the victimized and the powerless our United Nations can be relied upon to unearth the facts, to expose injustice, to promote peaceful coexistence and to champion truth. We believe this resolution will achieve much.*

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* Mr. Rogers (Belize), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Miss SAINT MALO (Panama) (interpretation from Spanish): My delegation abstained in the vote on draft resolution VIII, "Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms", in document A/46/721.

Our position in no way constitutes opposition to the fundamental principle of respect for human rights. On the contrary, our country has frequently made it clear in resolutions here, and in other forums, that we have no reservations whatsoever about defending human rights and fundamental freedoms.

However, we consider that draft resolution VIII imposes conditions that could be used as excuses for violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Although we are aware that the existence of certain living conditions favours the enjoyment of human rights, we cannot accept use of that criterion as an excuse for failure to observe human rights.

We consider that the democratic system is the fundamental basis for respect for human rights and that it is good to seek certain living conditions, but lack of such a system and conditions cannot justify violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Ms. DINH THI MINH HUYEN (Viet Nam): My delegation abstained in the vote on draft resolution I, "Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections", in document A/46/721/Add.1. We wish to reaffirm the following points.

The political, social, legal and electoral systems of a country are matters of that country's domestic jurisdiction, and should be established in accordance with its legislation.

(Ms. Dinh Thi Minh Huyen, Viet Nam)

There is no universal need for the United Nations to provide electoral assistance to Member States. Electoral assistance by the United Nations must remain an exceptional activity of the Organization, and should be undertaken only in special circumstances, such as cases of decolonization, or in the context of regional or international peace processes or at the request of specific sovereign States. It must be undertaken in strict conformity with the principles of sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

The existing United Nations organ which provides electoral assistance to Member States at their request has functioned effectively. We regard it as unncessary to establish a new United Nations structure to verify elections or provide electoral assistance.

Ms. SEMAFUMU (Uganda): Before I give Uganda's explanation of vote, I should like, as Rapporteur of the Committee, to draw attention to an omission from the report contained in document A/46/721/Add.1. Turkey should have been included in the list of sponsors of draft resolution I in that document.

I shall now give my explanation of vote.

Uganda abstained in the vote on draft resolution I in document A/46/721/Add.1. We support efforts aimed at promoting democracy, including those aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections. We therefore support the general thrust of the resolution. Nevertheless, we had difficulty with operative paragraphs 9, 10 and 11 which made it impossible for us to support the draft resolution as a whole.

(Ms. Semafumu, Uganda)

The question of elections is an important and sensitive issue of great interest to all countries. For this reason, we believe that the proposals advanced in the operative paragraphs we have cited should be carefully studied and should be based on the broadest possible consideration of the views of Member States.

In view of the sensitivity of the issue, in particular as it concerns matters of sovereignty, we believe that there should be clear criteria for responses to requests for electoral assistance to Member States. Furthermore, the mandate of the proposed structure or mechanism should have been agreed upon before a decision was taken on the proposal. We believe that the United Nations should continue to provide electoral assistance to Member States in exceptional circumstances. This should be at their explicit request and in conformity with established principles of international law.

We regret that the Committee was unable to allow for more time and study on this question. This, in our view, was a little out of step with the democratic principle the resolution seeks to enhance.

Mr. AL-SAUD (Saudi Arabia) (interpretation from Arabic): When reviewing the report in document A/46/721 as regards draft resolution IV under agenda item 98, entitled "International covenants on human rights", we noted that there was no reference to our statement after the adoption of that draft resolution by consensus in the Third Committee in which we explained our reservation on the fifth preambular paragraph regarding the Second Optional Protocol aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. Therefore I would like our official position on the fifth preambular paragraph as indicated in the Third Committee to be recorded in the official records of this meeting.

Mr. KHOSHROO (Islamic Republic of Iran): Since, in my delegation's view, the contents of draft resolution I in document A/46/721/Add.1 entitled "Enhancing the effectiveness of the principles of periodic and genuine elections", are not consistent with practice and the provisions of the Charter and may provide a pretext for abuse in the future, it chose not to participate in the voting on the draft resolution. My country adheres to the principle of periodic and genuine elections. According to the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran the affairs of the country must be administered on the basis of public voting through the election of the President, the representative of the Consultative Assembly, and members of the Council, or through referendums held on certain important economic, cultural or political issues.

Mrs. SYAHRUDDIN (Indonesia): My delegation is speaking in explanation of vote on draft resolution I contained in document A/46/721/Add.1, entitled "Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of genuine and genuine elections". Indonesia is a democratic country that has upheld the electoral process since its independence in 1945. The draft resolution entitled "Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections" deserves the support of my delegation as it supported resolution 43/157 of 8 December 1988, resolution 44/146 of 15 December 1989 and resolution 45/150 of 18 December 1990.

However, this time my delegation abstained from voting because we had reservations on aspects concerning the role of the Offices of the Secretary-General, specifically the designation of a senior official to act as focal point, and we feel that requests from Member States for electoral assistance should be dealt with on an ad hoc basis. It is our view that

(Mrs. Syahruddin, Indonesia)

implemention of periodic and genuine elections is entirely an internal matter. Indonesia does, however, support the provision of technical assistance to requesting States.

Ms. FENG Cui (China) (interpretation from Chinese): A few minutes ago the General Assembly adopted without a vote draft resolution XVI on the question of enforced or involuntary disappearances, contained in document A/46/721.

On 29 November after the adoption of this resolution in the Third Committee the Chinese delegation made an explanatory statement in which it expressed reservations on it and hoped that those reservations would be recorded. According to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I will not repeat our reservations here. We have noted that the paragraph 63 of the Third Committee's report (A/46/721) failed to record the aforementioned reservations of the Chinese delegation. We hope that the Secretariat will make the necessary amendment.

Miss ZINDOGA (Zimbabwe): I should like to explain Zimbabwe's vote.

The Government of Zimbabwe respects the United Nations Charter and international law. Since achieving independence in 1980, after a prolonged liberation struggle, Zimbabwe has held genuine elections every five years and has thus demonstrated that it upholds and cherishes that principle. However, Zimbabwe abstained in the vote on draft resolution I in document A/46/721/Add.1, entitled "Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections". We did so, not because we do not believe that the United Nations should not be involved, but because we are concerned about operative paragraphs 9, 10 and 11. We believe that consultations on the appointment of a senior United Nations official to coordinate electoral matters and on the institutionalization of that mechanism should have been carried further.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has concluded its consideration of agenda item 98.

We turn now to agenda item 12, which is entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council". I call on the representative of Austria to introduce an amendment to the report of the Third Committee (A/46/717 and Add.1).

Mr. KRENKEL (Austria): Yesterday the General Assembly adopted a draft resolution - as amended in accordance with a proposal put forward by the representative of Mongolia - on the international literacy year. By means of the last paragraph of that resolution the General Assembly decided to discuss the question of the international literacy year again at its fiftieth session. The Third Committee's programme of work should be amended accordingly. I therefore propose the following technical change in the draft resolution recommended in document A/46/717/Add.1: on page 8, under the heading "Item 4. Social development", "International Literacy Year" should be

(Mr. Krenkel, Austria)

followed by "(1995)" instead of "(odd years)" and should be listed as an annual rather than a biennial question.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 12 of its report (A/46/717); two draft decisions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 13 of the same document; and a draft resolution recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 7 of document A/46/717/Add.1.

The draft resolution contained in paragraph 12 of document A/46/717 is entitled "Social development". The Third Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 46/139).

The PRESIDENT: We turn now to the two draft decisions contained in paragraph 13 of document A/46/717.

Draft decision I, entitled "Non-governmental organizations", was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft decision I was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: Draft decision II, entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council", was adopted by the Third Committee. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft decision II was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: We shall now proceed to take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 7 of document A/46/717/Add.1. The draft resolution is entitled "Rationalization of the work

(The President)

of the Third Committee, including the biennial programme of work of the Committee for 1992-1993". May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft resolution as orally amended by Austria?

The draft resolution, as orally amended, was adopted (resolution 46/140).

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of the United States for an explanation of vote.

Ms. OJAMAA (United States of America): For the reasons that we gave in the Third Committee the United States did not participate in the General Assembly's action on the draft resolution under agenda item 12.

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded our consideration of the part of the report of the Economic and Social Council allocated to the Third Committee.

The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.